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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 325
By Rinks

A RESOLUTION to honor Senator Robert Rochelle of Lebanon, Tennessee for meritorious service on the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this body should pause to honor members of the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations, upon completion of their terms, who have performed their duties with the utmost integrity and whose efforts have ensured proper attention to myriad issues in fulfillment of the Commission's mission to serve as a forum for the discussion and resolution of intergovernmental problems, to provide high-quality research support to state and local government officials in order to improve the overall quality of government in Tennessee, and to improve the effectiveness of the intergovernmental system to better serve the citizens of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Robert Rochelle is a native Tennessean who received his Bachelor of Science Degree from Middle Tennessee State University and who earned his Law Degree from the University of Tennessee College of Law; and

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WHEREAS, he immediately thereafter joined the U.S. Army, in which he earned the Vietnam Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, and the Bronze Star while serving his country in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, upon his return from military service, Senator Rochelle took up the private practice of law; three years thereafter, he demonstrated his strong desire to serve the citizens of Wilson County by becoming County Attorney of Wilson County; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the 93rd through the 102nd General Assemblies, Senator Rochelle served the good people of the 17th Senatorial District with great wisdom, acumen, and dedication for twenty years, contributing mightily as a member of numerous standing committees and several joint and oversight committees, and throughout his tenure in the Senate, he served all of the citizens of this great State in various leadership roles; and

WHEREAS, Senator Robert Rochelle's strong leadership and guidance on intergovernmental issues has won him awards from the following organizations: Tennessee Sheriffs Association; Community Mental Retardation Agencies; Tennessee State Employees Association; International Association of Firefighters, Tennessee Chapter; American Planning Association, Tennessee Chapter; Tennessee Electric Cooperatives Association; Council of State Governments, Toll Fellow; and County Officials; he was also named "Legislator of the Year" by the Tennessee Development District Association; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the above-mentioned leadership roles, Senator Rochelle served with distinction on the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations from 1983 through 2002 and, for the past six years, as only the Commission's second Chairman since its inception, carrying on the unflagging commitment to intergovernmental issues demonstrated by his predecessor and founder of the Commission, John T. Bragg; and

WHEREAS, while serving as Senator and as a member and Chairman of this vital Commission, he successfully shepherded numerous bills through the legislative process for the betterment of the health, safety, and well-being of Tennesseans through improvements ranging

from parity in mental health insurance coverage, to creating a state Emergency 911 board that provides a statewide approach to wireless E-911 service, to securing local bonding authority for economic development projects such as the Nashville Super Speedway, to bringing order and predictability to annexation while protecting rural areas from high-density development through Tennessee's Growth Policy Act, which legislation earned him the Tennessee Conservation League's 1999 Award for Conservation Legislator and the American Planning Association's 1999 Award for Distinguished Leadership by an Elected Official; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Robert Rochelle for his countless contributions to the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations for more than nineteen years and for his honorable and dedicated service to the good people of this great State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.